AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Whole No. 2120 — Tuesday, November 27, 1951 — Vol. 41, No. 48

AFL Merges Reporter, News Service Dec. 5

This is the final issue of the AFL Weekly News Service in its present form.

By direction of the officers of the American Federation of Labor the News Service and the League Reporter, published hitherto by Labor's League for Political Education, are being merged.

The first issue of the new publication, to be known as the AFL News-Reporter will appear Dec. 5.

This new weekly newspaper will provide far broader information to its readers and far greater service to the labor press in news coverage and features. It will be a modern tabloid of 8 pages, newsy, bright and crusading in spirit.

Free mat service of photos, cartoons and features to the bona fide labor press will be continued and such publications on our mailing list will be privileged to reprint any articles in the AFL News-Reporter, which will be airmailed to them for faster service.

Publication of the AFL News-Reporter was decided upon as part of the program of integrating the educational activities of Labor's League for Political Education with the permanent educational activities of the American Federation of Labor, following the decision of the last AFL convention to finance the League's educational activities out of the Federation's general fund.

Present subscribers to The League Reporter will be served with the AFL News-Reporter until their subscriptions expire. Individual subscriptions to the merged publication will be $1 per year.

Look for the AFL News-Reporter, out Dec. 5!

Taft Dodges Blame For Huge Spending

MADAME PANDIT GOES HOME.—India's Ambassador to the United States, Madame Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (center), says goodbye in Washington's Union Station to Sir Oliver Franks, British Ambassador, and Mrs. Franks (right). John Simmons (left background), State Department protocol chief, represented U. S. at station farewell for the sister of India's Prime Minister Nehru who returned home to campaign for election to the Indian Parliament in the nation's first constitutional election on a platform of friendly understanding for America.

Charges Opponents Spent More in 1950 Campaign

Washington. — Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio told a Senate investigating committee that it wasn't his fault he and his Republican associates spent upwards of $1.8 million in the 1950 Ohio election campaign.

He admitted his campaign organization spent sume considerably larger than were usual in the ordinary senatorial campaign.

But, he claimed, organized labor spent so much opposing him that he was forced to violate all ethical and moral limits on campaign expenditures. He charged that his opponents spent $3 to his $1.

Mr. Taft arrived at this conclusion by adding in as expenditures in Ohio a figure of $750,000, which he said the AFL spent for the Frank Edwards news broadcasts. He included as spent in Ohio the amount the AFL spent for the Edwards broadcast over 150 stations outside Ohio and during the whole year before and after Mr. Taft's successful campaign for re-election.

AFL President William Green promptly retorted that Mr. Taft "was completely in error" in including the Edwards broadcast expenditures in such a manner.

Joseph T. Ferguson, Ohio state auditor and Mr. Taft's Democratic opponent in 1950, picked up Mr. Taft on the same issue.

Mr. Ferguson said that Mr. Taft made a big deal out of one lonely newscaster, Mr. Edwards, supporting Mr. Ferguson.

"Mr. Taft did not mention that great number of radio newsmen and columnists he had spreading propaganda for him," Mr. Ferguson said.

"The political value of a constant bombardment of publicity from these columnists and the extremely partisan newspapers of Ohio is beyond computation. If the comments of Frank Edwards are to be charged as a campaign contribution, then I will have to revise my claim of $5 million and say that the Taft contributions amounted to many millions more—possibly $100 million."

The hearing on Taft's huge slush fund expenditures was prompted by Mr. Ferguson's complaints immediately after the 1950 election.

The Ohio Senator, who is an announced candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, said that only $612,000 of the $1.8 million total Republican expenditures in 1950 could be charged to his personal campaign.

Most of his testimony consisted of newspaper articles and columns about what the AFL was doing without verification by any of the AFL officials quoted.

He evaded the moral and ethical crime of his own unconscionable expenditures by trying to claim he was forced into it all by his opposition, which spent $107,000.

The hearings were to run 4 days.

Unions Get Raises For All Workers

Washington.—AFL unions which have won outstanding wage gains have indirectly helped all the nation's workers to get a pay raise.

More employers without unions in their plants are now before the Wage Stabilization Board asking pay increases for their unorganized workers than there are employers seeking approval of raises in unionized plants.

On top of that the Salary Stabilization Board has now given blanket approval for raises for 5 million supervisory and other salaried workers to raise their pay to restore the differential between their earnings and those of the organized AFL workers they supervise.

Foremen and other supervisory employes are going to cash in on the wage increases won by unions for workers.

They will be permitted to catch up in percentage increases, by order of the Salary Stabilization Board, to restore the customary differentials.

As SSB Director Joseph D. Cooper explained Nov. 21, the gap between supervisors and the employes has been "narrowed" through increases won by union negotiations. So the new order was issued to "maintain the historical relationships" between those under jurisdiction of the SSB and the Wage Stabilization Board. The same goes for eliminating "intraplant inequities."

PAPER BOWS

Mineola, N. Y.—Volume 1, No. 1 of The Flight Engineer was published in November by the AFL Flight Engineer International Association, the newest international union monthly newspaper to make its bow.

The paper is issued from the union's new headquarters at 32 Third Ave., Suit 1, Mineola, Long Island, N. Y.

Give Union Label Xmas Presents

To all buyers of Christmas gifts the Union Label is the best guarantee that the article you purchase is of the highest quality, made by fair manufacturers in America, and under the most humane and sanitary conditions. No gift could be more appropriate.

GIVE UNION LABEL GIFTS!

Living Costs Hit New High

Washington.—The high cost of living slammed through a new record ceiling and is still going up.

The Labor Department reported that retail prices of goods and services bought by moderate income urban families in October were 0.4 percent higher than in September.

Foods went up 0.8 percent; rents, fuel and miscellaneous services 0.4 to 0.4 percent. Only housefurnishings declined, 0.3 percent.

The Washington, D. C., Evening Star said that federal officials predicted that the index will rise to even higher levels in the months to come.

Still to be measured are the huge price rises approved by the Office of Price Stabilization under the Capehart amendment to the Defense Production Act.

ITF MEETING 1952

London, England.—The International Transport Workers Federation will hold its biennial congress July 16-23, 1952, either in Stockholm, Sweden, or Copenhagen, Denmark.

Advertise! Get your friends to buy Union Label merchandise.

Taft Completely In Error--Green

Washington.—AFL President William Green said that Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, Republican candidate for President, was "completely in error" when he charged the AFL nightly news broadcast was financed as an indirect attempt to defeat him for re-election in 1950.

Refusing to talk to the point of his huge slush fund expenditures, running upwards of $2 million, Mr. Taft attempted to detract attention by introducing a sheaf of unverified newspaper stories about what the AFL was supposed to be intending to do. Mr. Green scotched the whopper about the news broadcast. He said:

"Senator Taft was completely in error when he testified that the American Federation of Labor spent $750,000 in an indirect attempt to defeat him for re-election by sponsoring the Frank Edwards news program over the Mutual Broadcasting System.

"The facts are that the Frank Edwards program was sponsored by the AFL not only in 1950, but this year, as well—long after Senator Taft's re-election—and will continue to be sponsored by us next year.

"This radio program is part of the long-range, nation-wide public relations program of the American Federation of Labor and has no relation to any specific political contest.

"While the American Federation of Labor sponsors Mr. Edwards, it does not control his views. As a news commentator, paid by the Mutual Broadcasting Co., he enjoys the same freedom of expression as any other radio commentator.

"Senator Taft's testimony also was untrue when he stated that the Frank Edwards broadcasts were 'devoted principally to attacks on me and against my re-election.' Mr. Edwards made a cross-country tour during the 1950 campaign, during which he reported upon outstanding contests in at least a dozen states.

"If the Senator from Ohio had said that Mr. Edwards has repeatedly attacked the hidebound, reactionary views of people like Senator Taft on domestic issues and their isolationist views on foreign policy, he would have been much closer to the truth.

"Every dollar spent in the Ohio campaign by Labor's League for Political Education, the political arm of the AFL, has been fully accounted for and duly reported to the constituted authorities."

JACOBSON ELECTED

New York.—Orin M. Ja...son of Tacoma, Wash., an inter...onal representative since 1...he new 8th ... pre...ami International Alliance o... cal Stage Employes. He fills ... vacancy created last May by the death of 3d International Vice President Floyd M. Billingsley of San Francisco.

Keenan Warns U. S. Building Needs Materials to Do Job

Says Industry Needed For Construction, In Bombings

New York.—The building and construction industry is a critical defense industry and an emergency industry that will be needed desperately if atom bombs fall.

It must have materials in order to do the job expected of it by the U. S. defense and military authorities and to hold together the trained craftsmen and skilled workers engaged in its many trades.

That picture was painted for U. S. officials in a speech by Joseph D. Keenan, secretary-treasurer AFL Building and Construction Trades Department and assistant administrator of the Defense Production Authority. He spoke at a meeting of the New York Building Congress.

Mr. Keenan pointed out that the building and construction industry has been placed in a strait jacket by controls on materials which have forced a curtailment of activity and widespread employment.

He said the industry's employers and workers are willing to accept all necessary restraints but, please, don't keep in effect the industry-wrecking regulations such as was done in World War II until long past the time for which they were needed. He said there must be relief early in 1952 when new production of steel and aluminum begin.

The New York Congress is taking the lead in a nation-wide movement to alert defense mobilization officials to these facts. Mr. Keenan said in part:

"This industry has been one of the greatest outstanding assets in this country when the chips were down.

"In 1940, '41 and '42, it was my job to try to arrange the shifting of labor to the plants that the government needed so badly, and I went to Las Vegas and all over the United States, and I found your advisory people, your supervision and our people living in packing boxes, living with just a sheet stretched across the top of their cars.

"That wasn't just an occasional happening; that was general all over the country. Nobody asked if they had housing. Nobody asked if there were facilities. There was a job to be built and you and they went out and did it, and did it in record time.

"We are willing now as then to go out and make the sacrifices. We are willing now as we were then to go out and stretch morning, noon and night that these requirements that are necessary be built and put into production as quickly as possible.

SET UP ATOMIC ORGANIZING DRIVE.—President James A. Brownlow of AFL Metal Trades Department (at head of table, center) and representatives of 22 AFL unions mapped intensive and continuous organizing campaign in nation's atomic energy installations to increase 3-1 lead held by AFL unions in members and number of plants organized.

"After that job is done, and after we are relieved of the responsibility, then I think we are entitled to consideration, so that we can go on and take our place and build the schools and the other things that will be necessary after the command construction is completed.

"If they had allowed us in 1944 to move in and start to build the homes and start to build the necessities that we knew were needed all over the country, we probably wouldn't have had the black market and the conditions that prevailed for the first two or three years after the war was over.

"We wouldn't have these people that took our GIs and took $1,000 under the table in order to put a roof over their head, and what they pay today, and I think that we ought to start to plan this thing so that we can move in, and when these kids come back they will have a place to live so they can be married and raise children and raise families like everyone else.

"And another thing: they state that this is just a service industry. Well, here in New York just last week you had a mock air raid or an atomic bomb raid and I wonder if we are just a service industry. I wonder if we can do anything with refrigerators and automobiles if we have a condition in this country like we witnessed in Germany.

"Will we be able to put the sewers back? Will we be able to put the water in? Will we be able to repair the bridges with automobiles? I don't think so. This is more than a service industry. This is an emergency industry that will be needed more than any other in case we do have an atomic raid on this country. It is possible and we have to have this force."

WSB Puts In Effect Equal Pay for Women

Washington.—The Wage Stabilization Board put into effect an "equal pay for equal work" policy in line with its effort to foster maximum defense production and promote sound working relations.

Public, industry and labor members of the board said that the principle of equal pay for equal work, without regard to sex, race, color or national origin, is part of "a sound program seeking full utilization of all our available manpower during this present emergency."

The new WSB resolution was approved by Economic Stabilization Administrator Eric Johnston.

The board's resolution said in part:

"Whereas, it is the policy of the Wage Stabilization Board to exercise its functions so as to obtain maximum production for national defense and civilian needs, and to preserve and promote sound working relations; and

"Whereas, the principle of equal pay for equal work is recognized as being an integral part of a sound program seeking full utilization of all our available manpower during this present emergency.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved:

"(1) That the Wage Stabilization Board will approve increases in wages, salaries and other compensation granted to equalize wages, salaries and other compensation for comparable quality and quantity of work on the same or similar operations in the same establishment, without regard to sex, race, color or national origin; provided, that where work has been rearranged or individual proportionate rates for proportionate work, based on job analysis, shall be permitted.

"(2) That pending further instructions, the staff be authorized to approve petitions to equalize wages or salaries paid for comparable quality and quantity of work; provided, however, that in which the evidence does not substantiate that the quality or quantity of work is comparable or that the operations or the same will be referred to the board for decision."

New York AFL Backs Pay In Pregnancy

New York.—The Women's Trade Union League, at a public hearing before the New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Industrial and Labor Conditions on the Disability Benefits Law, pointed up in their statement the glaring omission of deliberate exclusion from benefits for women whose disability is caused by or arises in connection with pregnancy.

The injustice of this exclusion becomes immediately apparent when one considers that the disability benefits law has been set up as a system of insurance and that women workers pay premiums into the fund based on their earnings, stated Mrs. Bess W. Kaye, executive secretary.

The exclusion from the disability benefits law of benefits during such a period of time, continued Mrs. Kaye, constitutes a discrimination against this large group of workers which is unfair to the worker. She said it militates against the public interest and the best interests of the state because women whose services are desperately needed by their families will continue to work and will return by work during a period of time that medical opinion recognizes as detrimental to the health of the worker as well as to the newborn or unborn child.

The league's proposed amendment to Section 205 of the Disability Benefits law to implement its suggested revisions has been adopted by and is now part of the 1952 legislative program of the New York State Federation of Labor, with which the league is affiliated.

Four years of apprenticeship or equivalent training and several years of experience are usually required for one to qualify as a skilled sheet metal worker in aircraft manufacturing.

SAFETY TEAM TOURS

Washington.—Eleven representatives of government, industry, labor and medicine from France, Greece, Italy and Belgium arrived in the United States to participate in an 8-week course of study of industrial safety and health practices. They plan to visit 13 cities by Jan. 23.

AFL Survey Reports 10-Fold Tax Rise

The AFL Labor's Monthly Survey for November reported that the federal tax burden reached an all-time peak with Uncle Sam collecting 10 times as much now as in 1939.

To facilitate use of this issue in workers' education classes, the Survey staff said information in the November issue covers these subjects:

On the World Front:

Communist WFTU Launches a New Drive to sabotage western defense production by infiltrating unions.

Arms Reduction Plan, now before United Nations, is described and discussed.

Europe: Economic Crisis and Problems of Unification. Workers' living standards are desperately low: economic unity is essential to raise them. Explains steps toward European unity. Council of Europe meeting, starting November 26, will discuss far-reaching proposals.

Middle East Command—Its form of organization is based on principles of equal participation of free nations, with sovereignty of each protected. It will plug a gap in the West's defense wall.

On the Home Front:

Federal Tax Burden Reaches All-Time Peak. Uncle Sam collects ten times as much as in 1939. Prospective increases in federal spending in fiscal 1953 create a danger.

Higher Price Ceilings may result in a 2 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index—but not for several months.

Inflation is Now Being Held in Check by large supplies of goods, voluntary bank credit controls, wise Federal borrowing.

Employment is now 5 million higher than 2 years ago, including the armed forces.

Unemployment threatens next year in small towns dependent on metal working plants, as metals are cut back further.

AFL Auto Workers Rise 40 Percent

Cincinnati. — Membership gains of the AFL United Auto Workers exceeded 40 percent in the past 4 years.

President Lester Washburn told the union's 9th national convention that the membership gain highlighted 4 years of progress and advancement.

Mr. Washburn, along with all other officers and regional directors, was unanimously reelected.

Important constitutional changes were authorized by the convention, among which was adoption of a regional fund program raising dues 50 cents a month in those locals where regional funds are not yet in existence. This dues increase is one of the smallest to be reported by any international union in recent years.

The convention called for drastic amendments in the Defense Production Act and to the wage stabilization program. It supported stronger social security, public housing, national health insurance, and full employment practices.

Probably its most important action was calling upon the president to establish an administrative and congressional economic advisory committee composed of leaders from labor, business, and agriculture. The primary function of this group would be to work toward the maintenance of a proper balance of wages, prices and profits in order to guarantee that no one group would reap any selfish gain at the expense of any other.

CALLS GREEN CARPETBAGGER

Washington. — Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio listed AFL President William Green, native-born and life-long Ohioan, as a "political carpetbagger" who "invaded" Ohio in the 1950 campaign to defeat Mr. Taft's bid for re-election.

Mr. Green was at his home in Coshocton, Ohio, when Taft's claim was made before a Senate subcommittee investigating Mr. Taft's huge slush fund expenditures to win a seat in the U. S. Senate.

Born in Coshocton, Mr. Green was a lad of 16 years working in Ohio coal mines when Senator Taft was born. Mr. Green was a distinguished member of the Ohio State Senate when Mr. Taft was learning how to read and write away at private eastern schools and living away from Ohio in Washington where his father was President, Chief Justice and Cabinet member.

Who's a carpetbagger?

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Whole No. 2120 TUESDAY, NOV. 27, 1951 Vol. 41, No. 48

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1108, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Published weekly by the American Federation of Labor
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EDITORIAL OFFICE: Room 211, AFL Building, 901 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D. C.
Subscription $1 per year.

"Were it not for the labor press, the labor movement would not be what it is today, and any man who tries to injure a labor paper is a traitor to the cause."—Samuel Gompers.